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PAGE 01 BUENOS 08969 311629Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADS-00 SYE-00 SSO-00 MED-05 L-03
MCT-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 PA-01 A-02
/040.W -----086934 311639Z /40

O 311558Z OCT 79
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2985

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E.O. 12065 N/A
TAGS AFSP, APER, ASEC
SUBJECT ASSAULT ON EMBASSY STAFF

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 2300 HRS 30 OCT FSRU-7 ZANDRA FLEMISTER, FSS-7 BARBARAS JOHNSON AND FSN JOSE MARIA QUEVADO WERE RUNNING IN PALERMO PARK NEAR EMBASSY. THREE MEN STOPPED THEIR VEHICLE NEARBY AND WITHOUT ANY PROVOCATION VERBALLY ABUSED THE WOMEN AND BRUTALLY ASSAULTED QUEVADO. THE WOMEN SUMMONED POLICE, WHO ARRIVED PROMPTLY AND TOOK THREE-INDIVIDUALS INTO CUSTODY.

2. SUBSEQUENTLY IN THE POLICE STATION, AN UNINVOLVED OBSERVER OF INCIDENT CONFIRMED STATEMENTS OF FLEMISTER, JOHNSON AND QUEVADO. RSO IMMEDIATELY JOINED STAFF MEMBERS AT POLICE STATION, AND HE LEARNED FROM POLICE THAT INDIVIDUALS IN CUSTODY APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN DRINKING HEAVILY AND CARRIED IDENTIFICATION OF AN ARGENTINE AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE UNIT. AN AIR FORCE REPRESENTATIVE CONFIRMED THEY WERE ASSOCIATED WITH THE AIR FORCE.

3. FLEMISTER AND JOHNSON WERE NOT MOLESTED BUT SUFFERED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMOTIONAL STRESS. QUEVADO IS HOSPITALIZED BECAUSE OF SEVERE BEATING.

4. EMBASSY HAS SENT NOTE TO FORNOFF INFORMING OF INCIDENT AND REQUESTING FULL AND PROMPT INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION ACCORDING TO APPLICABLE LAW. AMBASSADOR HAS OBTAINED APPOINTMENT WITH DEPUTY FORNMIN AT 1600 TO REINFORCE NOTE AND TO SUGGEST GOA PURSUE MATTER VIGOROUSLY AND THAT IT MAY WISH TO FORESTALL SPECULATION BY PUBLISHING FACTS OF CASE. PENDING GOA REACTION RECOMMEND DEPT DEFER PUBLIC COMME CASTRO

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Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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IPS by AD Date 6-2-16